

December 2022

Dr. Michael Worthy, Chair  
Director of Bands Search Committee  
University of Mississippi  
Oxford, MS 38655

Dr. Worthy and Committee Members:

It is with great enthusiasm that I apply for the Director of Bands position at the University of Mississippi. Reviewing the essential duties and responsibilities outlined in the job posting, the role seems an excellent fit with my qualifications. Please accept this letter and the additional materials I have provided to complete my application for this exciting opportunity.

My teaching experience includes 18 years as a high school band director in successful music programs in Ohio and Kentucky—many of those years included directing high school orchestra and middle school band programs. This experience provides me an invaluable perspective in my current role as a collegiate band director and music education professor. I am more effective in my outreach to regional schools because I can relate to secondary school directors' situations, their challenges, and related norms in middle and high school music classrooms. The advice and strategies I share with directors is practical and effective and originates from successful implementation in my own teaching.

Currently, I serve as Director of Bands at Morehead State University—a position I've held since 2019. Just prior, I was Associate Director of Bands from 2017-2019. My teaching responsibilities include conducting two large concert ensembles, directing the university marching band, teaching courses in music education and conducting, and teaching private applied conducting. I am a full member of MSU's graduate faculty, and in that capacity, I have taught several graduate courses, led graduate student independent study, and served on fourteen graduate student exit committees. My collegiate teaching experience also includes five years as an adjunct music professor at Kentucky Wesleyan College, where I taught private applied brass students, rehearsed and served as associate conductor of the Wind Ensemble, and taught undergraduate courses in music education.

I have an extensive record of service at the department, college, and university level. Though outlined in detail in my CV, I would note my work on college- and university-level curriculum committees as well as my experience at the

department level compiling, editing, and writing components of the NASM Self-Study document required for our recent accreditation review. I look forward to engaging in the future with colleagues at the University of Mississippi in similar important work. I have a record of positive, productive collaboration with fellow faculty, and I believe such teamwork is an essential element of success for any university band program or music department.

Since beginning my teaching career, I have successfully hosted four high school concert band clinics, four middle school honor band clinics, thirteen marching band competitions, six winter guard and indoor percussion competitions, two district solo and ensemble festivals, six all-district band audition events, four large group concert assessments, two all-district band events, two all-district orchestra events, and multiple event-based fundraiser initiatives. Beyond simply creating a functional event, I have a proven record of providing a professional, pleasant experience for individuals and groups in attendance. I am committed to maintaining such exceptional events at the University of Mississippi, and through collaboration with fellow faculty, I look forward to developing new ideas for successful internal and external events.

Active professional membership and contributions to the advancement of music education are important to me. Currently, I serve on the KMEA executive board as the state collegiate NAFME Sponsor, and among many former leadership roles, I am a past editor of our state music publication, the *Bluegrass Music News*. I hold professional memberships in the National Association for Music Education/Kentucky Music Educators Association (NAFME/KMEA), the National Band Association (NBA), the College Band Directors National Association (CBDNA) and Phi Beta Mu International Bandmasters Fraternity. I have contributed to the *Teaching Music Through Performance in Band* series and have been interviewed by *School Band and Orchestra* magazine on overcoming early career hurdles. I have an extensive record of presenting clinic sessions at state and regional conferences. Most recently, I spoke about fostering student intrinsic motivation in music at the 2022 West Virginia Music Educators State Conference. At the 2022 KMEA State Conference, our MSU Symphonic Winds (top concert ensemble) was selected through a blind, juried process to perform—a first for our school in a decade. At the University of Mississippi, I plan to certainly continue such activity, and I will also seek presentation and performance opportunities on the national and international level (e.g., NAFME, CBDNA, Midwest Clinic, WASBE, etc.).

Should you need any further information, please contact me at (270) 903-9888 or e-mail me at [dcdale@moreheadstate.edu](mailto:dcdale@moreheadstate.edu). I also invite you to visit my personal

portfolio website, [www.dcdale.com](http://www.dcdale.com), for further insight into my current work. I look forward to discussing the position at the University of Mississippi with you in an interview at your convenience.

With great enthusiasm,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. W. Dale". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "D." and last name "Dale" clearly distinguishable.

DuWayne C. Dale, D.M.A.

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